

Appl. No. 09/203,894
Amendment dated October 24, 2003
Reply to Office Action of September 9, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 13, 15, 21, 22, 26, and 27 are pending in the application with claims 1 and 15 having been currently amended and claims 2-6, 9-12, 14, 16-20, 23-25, and 28 having been canceled.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 15, 21, 22, and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Fagouri et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,080,929).

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 13-15, 17-19, 21, 22, and 26-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fagouri et al. in view of Sumitomo Chemical (Ishii) JP-57-115493.

Applicants have been informed on page 3 of the Office Action that claims 2 and 16 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As filed, claim 2 was dependent upon claim 1 and claim 16 was dependent upon claim 15. By the present amendments, the features of claims 2 and 16 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 15, respectively, and claims 2 and 16 have been canceled. All of the other claims remaining in the application are dependent upon either claim 1 or claim 15. Accordingly, it is submitted that all the pending claims are now allowable.

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In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and an early Office Action to that end is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

Paul J. Lewis Reg. No. 30,754
for James L. Lewis
Reg. No. 24,732

Levy & Grandinetti
Suite 1108
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1401

(202) 429-4560